

MARVEL

TM



PLUS:
CAP + CYCLOPS

018

Q: Hi...Can you tell me what's in my hands right now?
A: Can you not see?! You hold in your hands NOT THE FIRST, but THE VERY LAST ISSUE of A+X. Unlike a CANCELLATION, this book has come to its NATURAL END!

Q: Why are you yelling?
A: I'M NOT YELLING! We just decided a book COULD NOT POSSIBLY GET ANY BETTER than this one has been for the last EIGHTEEN ISSUES, so we're CALLING IT A DAY! But not without TWO FINAL TALES of ONE AVENGER and ONE X-MAN teaming up!

Q: I am pretty sure you're yelling.
A: Did you hear about the time KITTY PRYDE and THE VISION teamed up for an INCREDIBLE adventure of INTANGIBILITY?! How about the time CAPTAIN AMERICA and CYCLOPS teamed up with a mob of SKRULLS to defeat DOCTOR DOOM?! Because YOU'RE ABOUT TO!

Q: This reads like something an intern would write...
A: Maybe an intern DID write it, but WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? Aren't we all just interns for this GREAT COMPANY we call LIFE?!

Q: I mean....I guess that makes--
A: TURN THE PAGE AND BUCKLE UP, MY FRIEND, for we have two FINAL ADVENTURES to tell tale of!



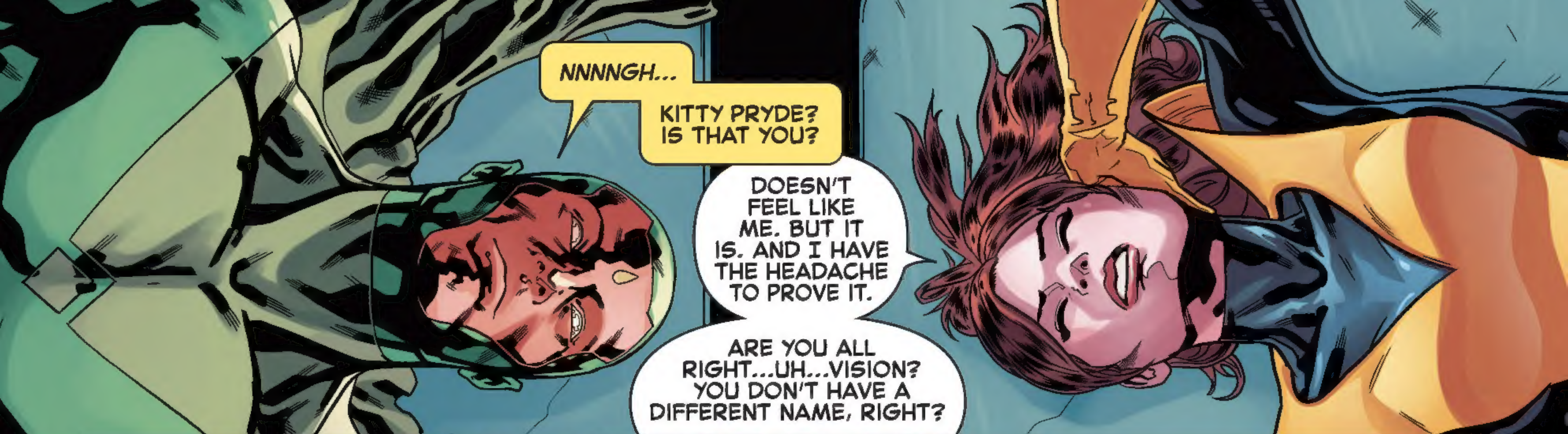
THE VISION + **KITTY PRYDE**

JIM KRUEGER **WILL SLINEY** **ANDRES MOSSA** **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES**
WRITER ARTIST COLOR ARTIST LETTERER

CAPTAIN AMERICA + **CYCLOPS**

GERRY DUGGAN **DAVID YARDIN** + **MATTEO LOLLI** **CAM SMITH** **ANDRES MOSSA** **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES**
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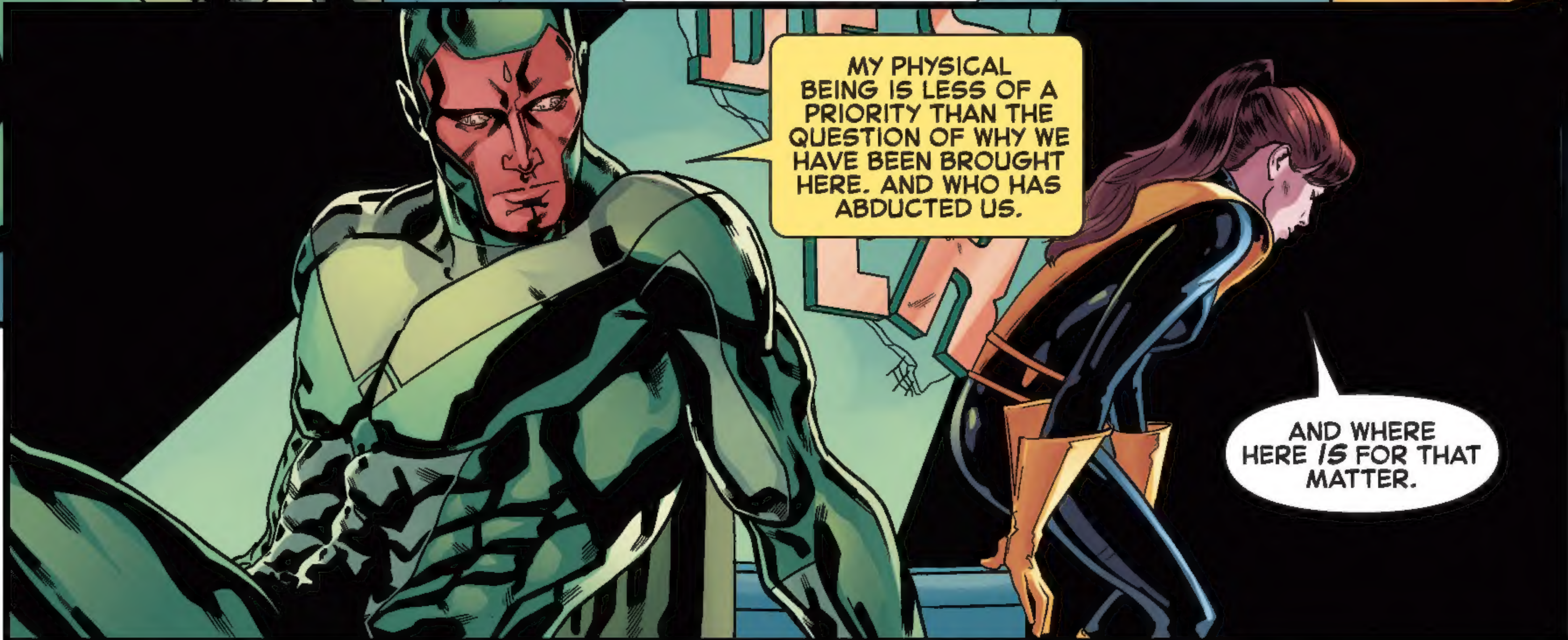


NNNNGH...

KITTY PRYDE?
IS THAT YOU?

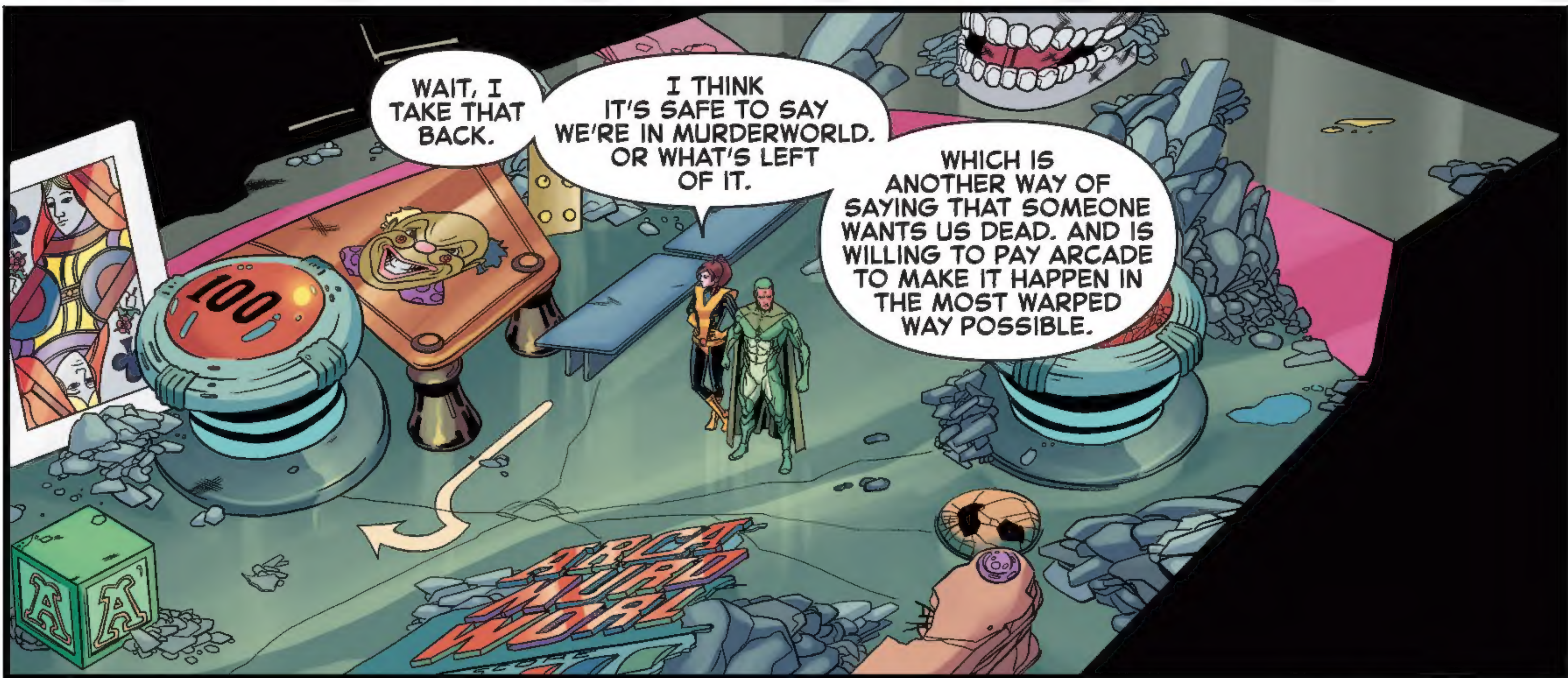
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE
ME. BUT IT
IS. AND I HAVE
THE HEADACHE
TO PROVE IT.

ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT...UH...VISION?
YOU DON'T HAVE A
DIFFERENT NAME, RIGHT?



MY PHYSICAL
BEING IS LESS OF A
PRIORITY THAN THE
QUESTION OF WHY WE
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
HERE. AND WHO HAS
ABDUCTED US.

AND WHERE
HERE *IS* FOR THAT
MATTER.



WAIT, I
TAKE THAT
BACK.

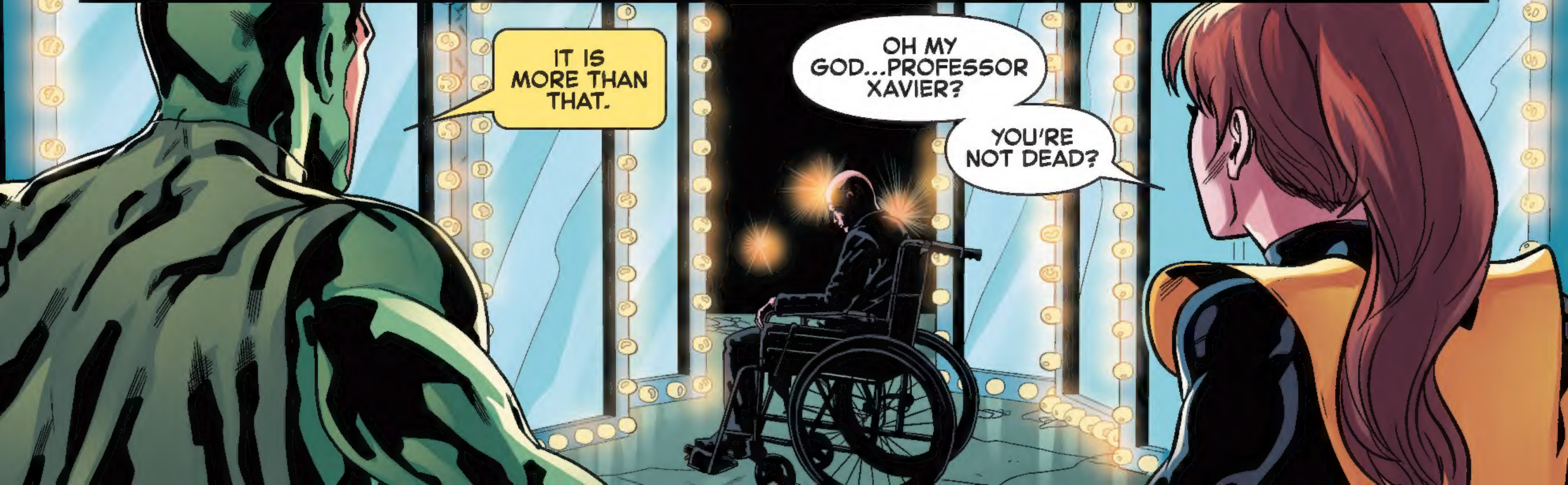
I THINK
IT'S SAFE TO SAY
WE'RE IN MURDERWORLD.
OR WHAT'S LEFT
OF IT.

WHICH IS
ANOTHER WAY OF
SAYING THAT SOMEONE
WANTS US DEAD. AND IS
WILLING TO PAY ARCADE
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN IN
THE MOST WARPED
WAY POSSIBLE.



WHY US, THOUGH? I AM
AN ANDROID. YOU ARE
A MUTANT. WHY BOTH
OF US TOGETHER?

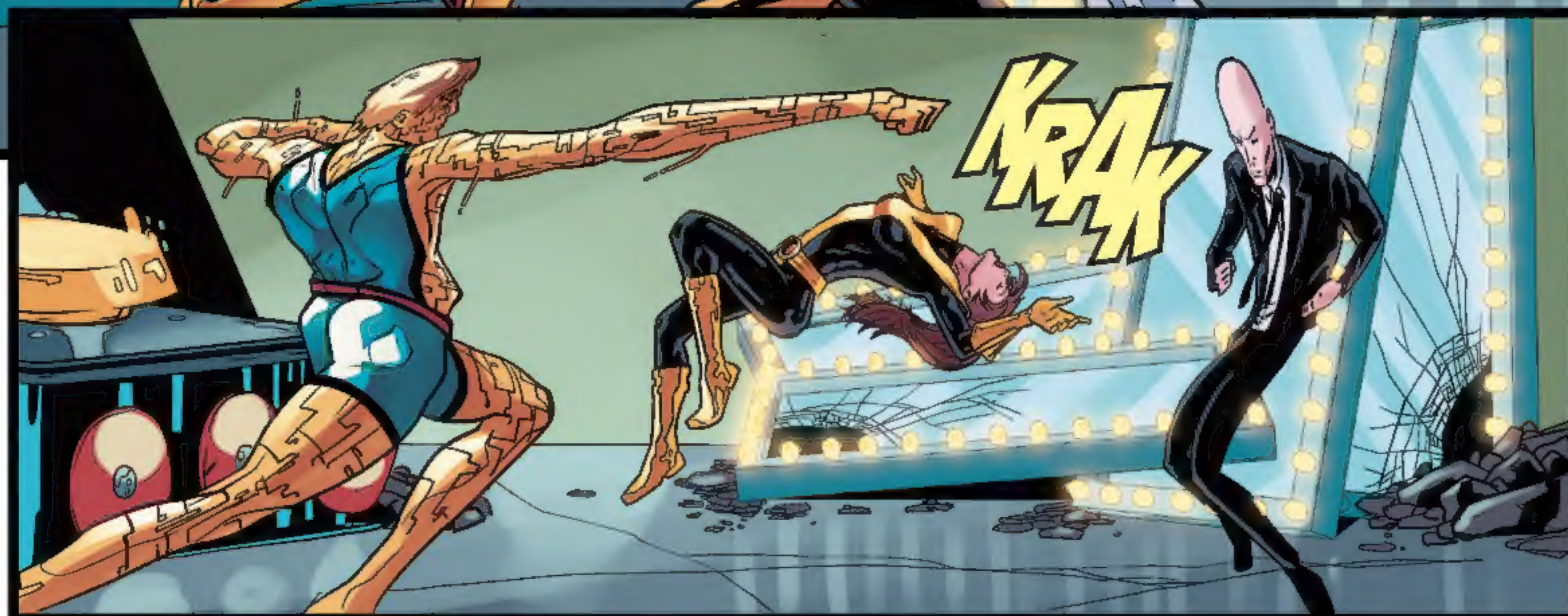
MAYBE BECAUSE
WE CAN BOTH BECOME
INTANGIBLE?




IT IS
MORE THAN
THAT.

OH MY
GOD...PROFESSOR
XAVIER?

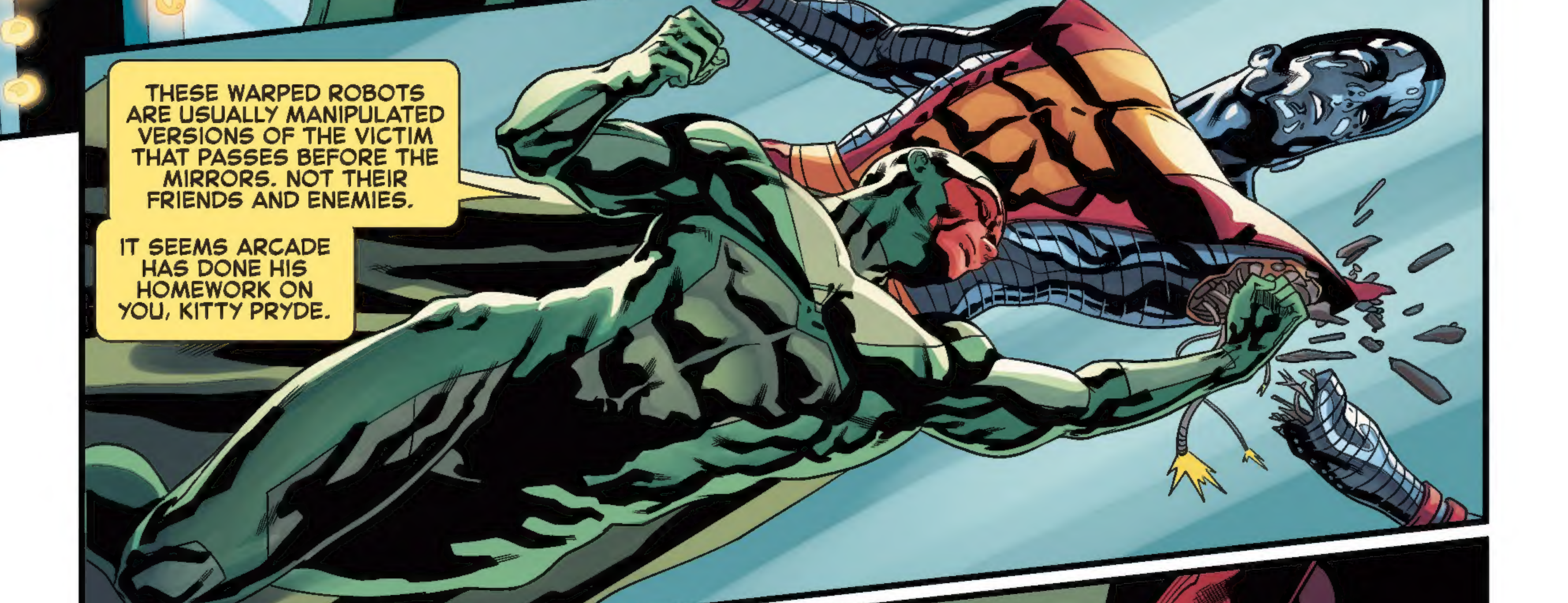
YOU'RE
NOT DEAD?





IT APPEARS THAT
I TOO AM INCAPABLE
OF BECOMING
INTANGIBLE. MUCH
TO THE REGRET OF
THESE AUTOMATONS.

I AM DOWNLOADING
EVERYTHING I KNOW OF THE
ASSASSIN ARCADE AND THIS
MURDERWORLD.



THESE WARPED ROBOTS
ARE USUALLY MANIPULATED
VERSIONS OF THE VICTIM
THAT PASSES BEFORE THE
MIRRORS. NOT THEIR
FRIENDS AND ENEMIES.

IT SEEMS ARCADE
HAS DONE HIS
HOMEWORK ON
YOU, KITTY PRYDE.



NOT
JUST ON ME.
LOOK.



KITTY PRYDE, IT WILL BE TACTICALLY WISER IF I FIGHT YOUR MIRRORMEN, AND YOU ENGAGE WITH MINE.

FINE. AND PLEASE, JUST CALL ME KITTY.

VERY WELL... KITTY.



OKAY, SHE'S NOT YOURS, BUT I WILL HAPPILY PUNCH EMMA.



IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HAD TO FIGHT WITHOUT USING MY POWERS...NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS THE DANGER ROOM.



THE MIRRORS ARE THE SOURCE OF THE AUTOMATONS. PERHAPS THE CIRCUIT CAN BE BROKEN.



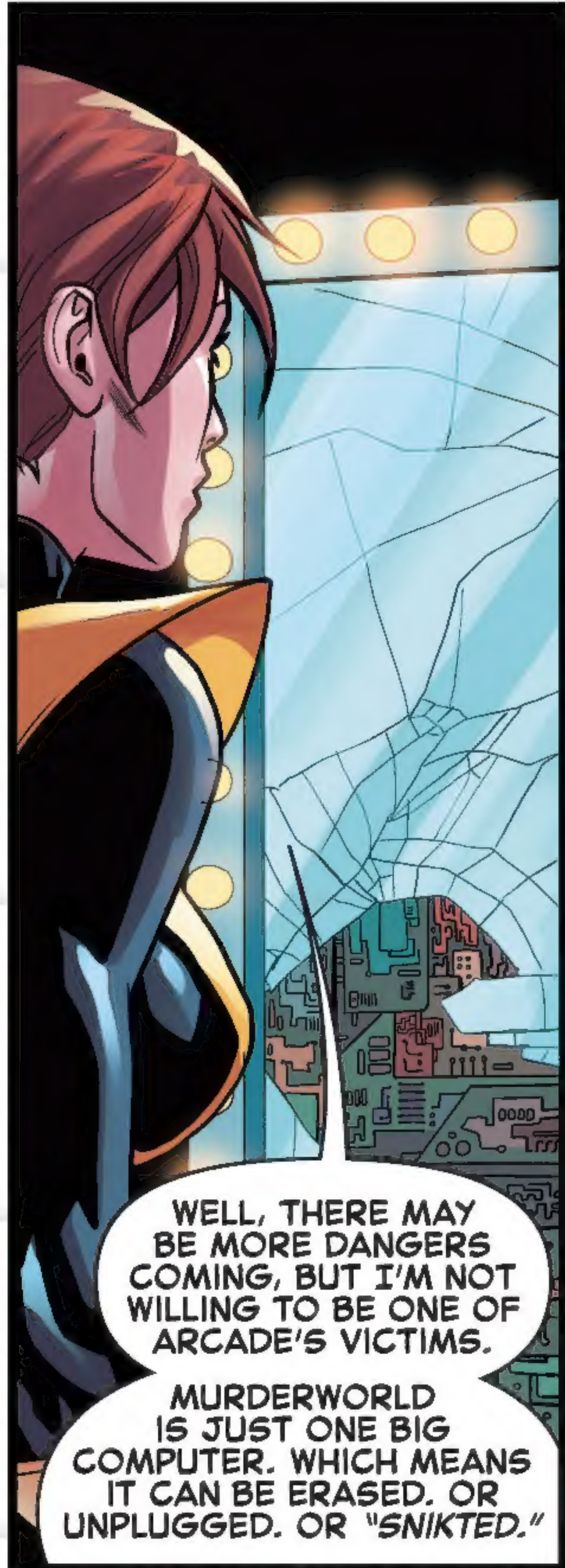
NICE WORK. YOU'RE A GENIUS, VISION. AND I DON'T SAY THAT OFTEN. USUALLY I'M THE GENIUS.



FROM EVERYTHING I HAVE LEARNED, THIS IS BUT ONE OF THE DANGERS WE WILL FACE.



I HATE THIS, VISION. I HATE HOW **THIS PLACE** TRIED TO USE PEOPLE I LOVE. PEOPLE I'VE LOST... TO HURT ME.



WELL, THERE MAY BE MORE DANGERS COMING, BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO BE ONE OF ARCADE'S VICTIMS.

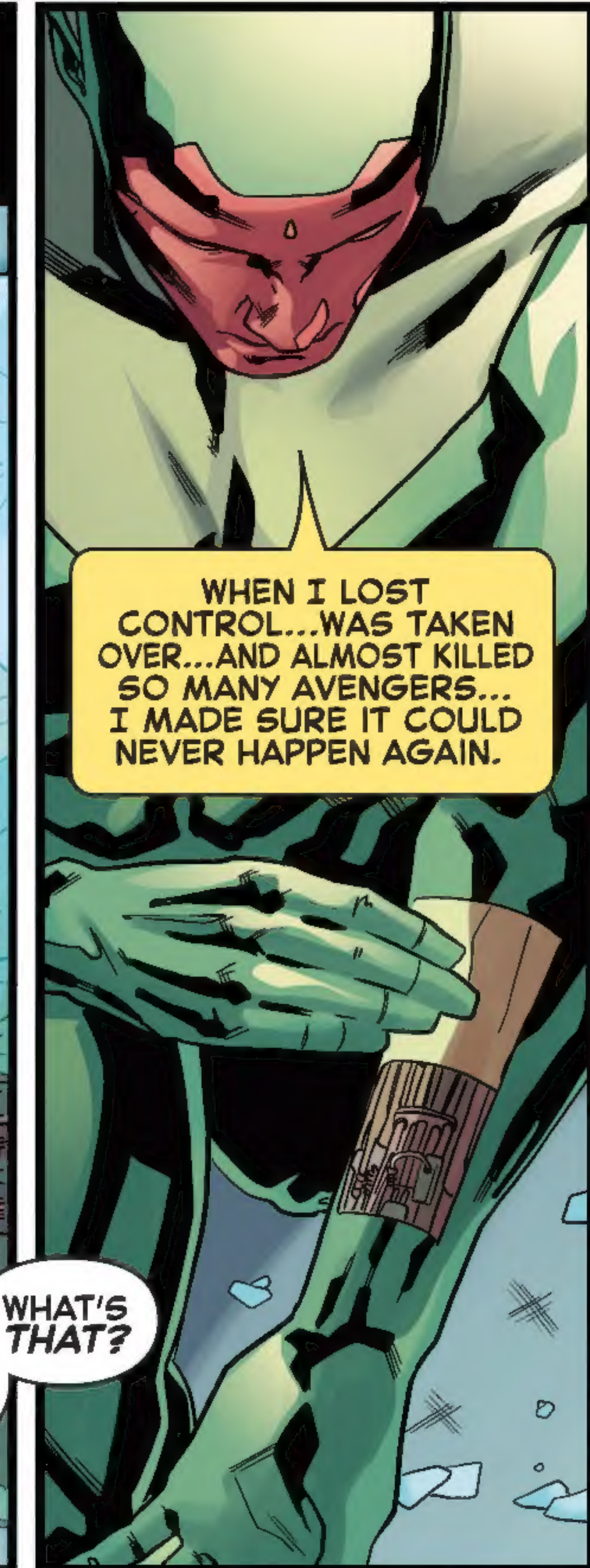
MURDERWORLD IS JUST ONE BIG COMPUTER. WHICH MEANS IT CAN BE ERASED. OR UNPLUGGED. OR "SNIKTED."



SNIKTED?

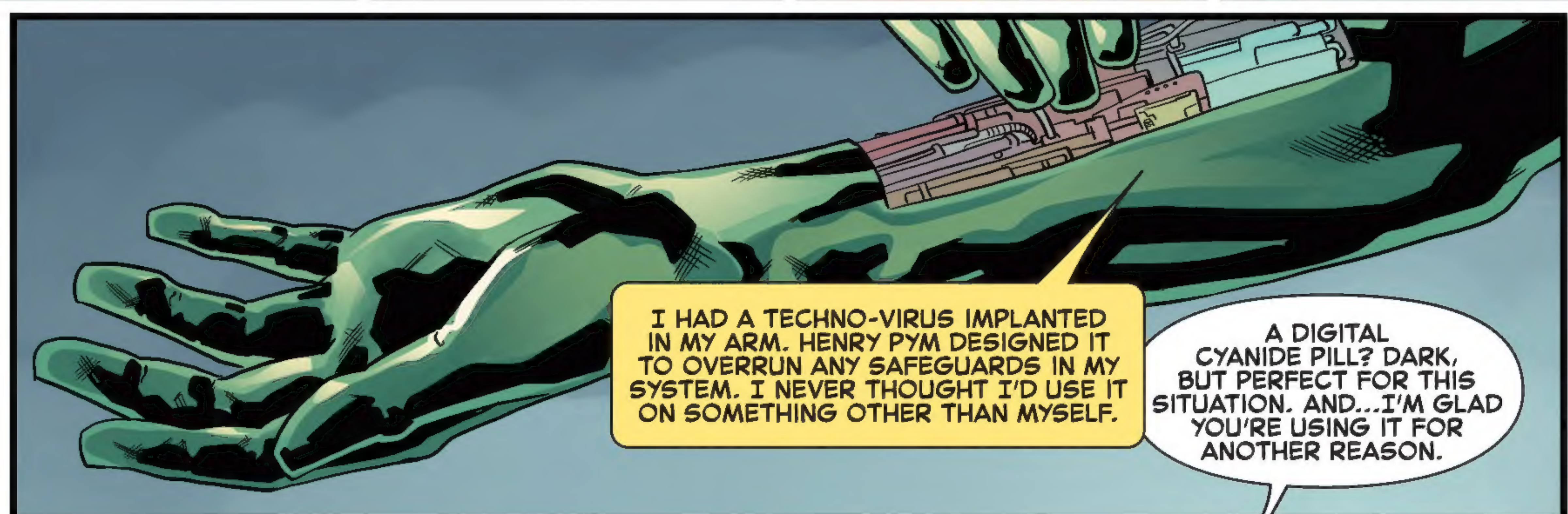
THAT'S HOW WOLVERINE WOULD DO IT.

THE POINT IS THAT YOU AND I ARE ABOUT TO MURDER MURDERWORLD.



WHEN I LOST CONTROL...WAS TAKEN OVER...AND ALMOST KILLED SO MANY AVENGERS... I MADE SURE IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

WHAT'S THAT?



I HAD A TECHNO-VIRUS IMPLANTED IN MY ARM. HENRY PYM DESIGNED IT TO OVERRUN ANY SAFEGUARDS IN MY SYSTEM. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D USE IT ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN MYSELF.

A DIGITAL CYANIDE PILL? DARK, BUT PERFECT FOR THIS SITUATION. AND...I'M GLAD YOU'RE USING IT FOR ANOTHER REASON.



THAT SHOULD BE IT. OKAY, VISION. YOU CAN RELEASE THE VIRUS.

VISION?



WHAT IS IT?

I SAW SOMETHING... A PERSON...THEY APPEARED TO BE HURT.



IT'S JUST ANOTHER TRAP.

I DO NOT BELIEVE SO. AND IT IS INTERESTING THAT WE WERE NOT ATTACKED IN ANY WAY WHILE WE TRIED TO RELEASE THE VIRUS.

RIGHT. THAT WASN'T VERY MURDERWORLDDY OF THIS PLACE.



A MAZE.

HEH. "A MAZE." BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN I LOSE MY PHASING POWERS, MY SECONDARY MUTATION TAKES ITS PLACE TO COMPENSATE-- STATING THE OBVIOUS.



UH, THAT WALL WAS NOT THERE BEFORE.

I HATE WALLS.



TO YOU AND I, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING BEFORE.

THERE IS SOMETHING HERE WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE. SOMETHING ARCADE DOES NOT WANT US TO SEE.

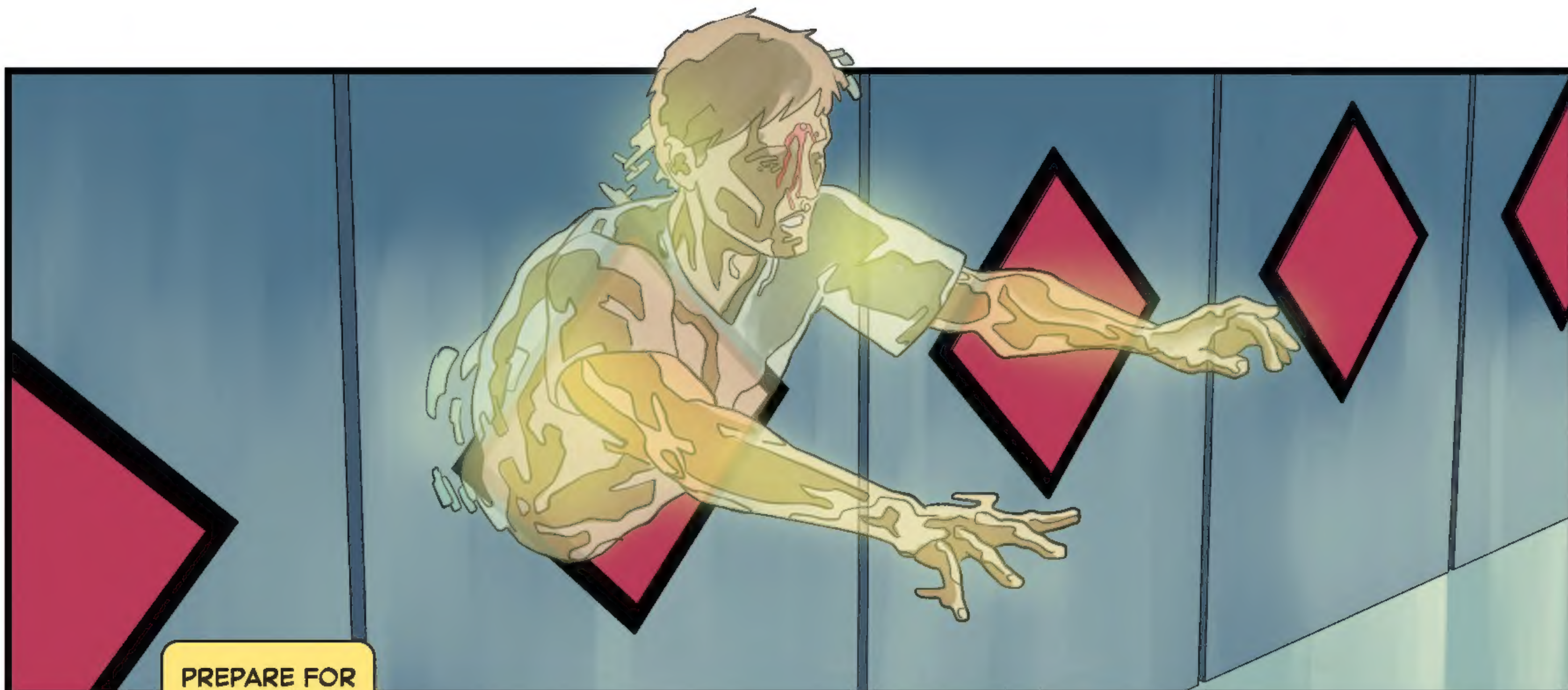
YOU MEAN, OTHER THAN THE EXIT?



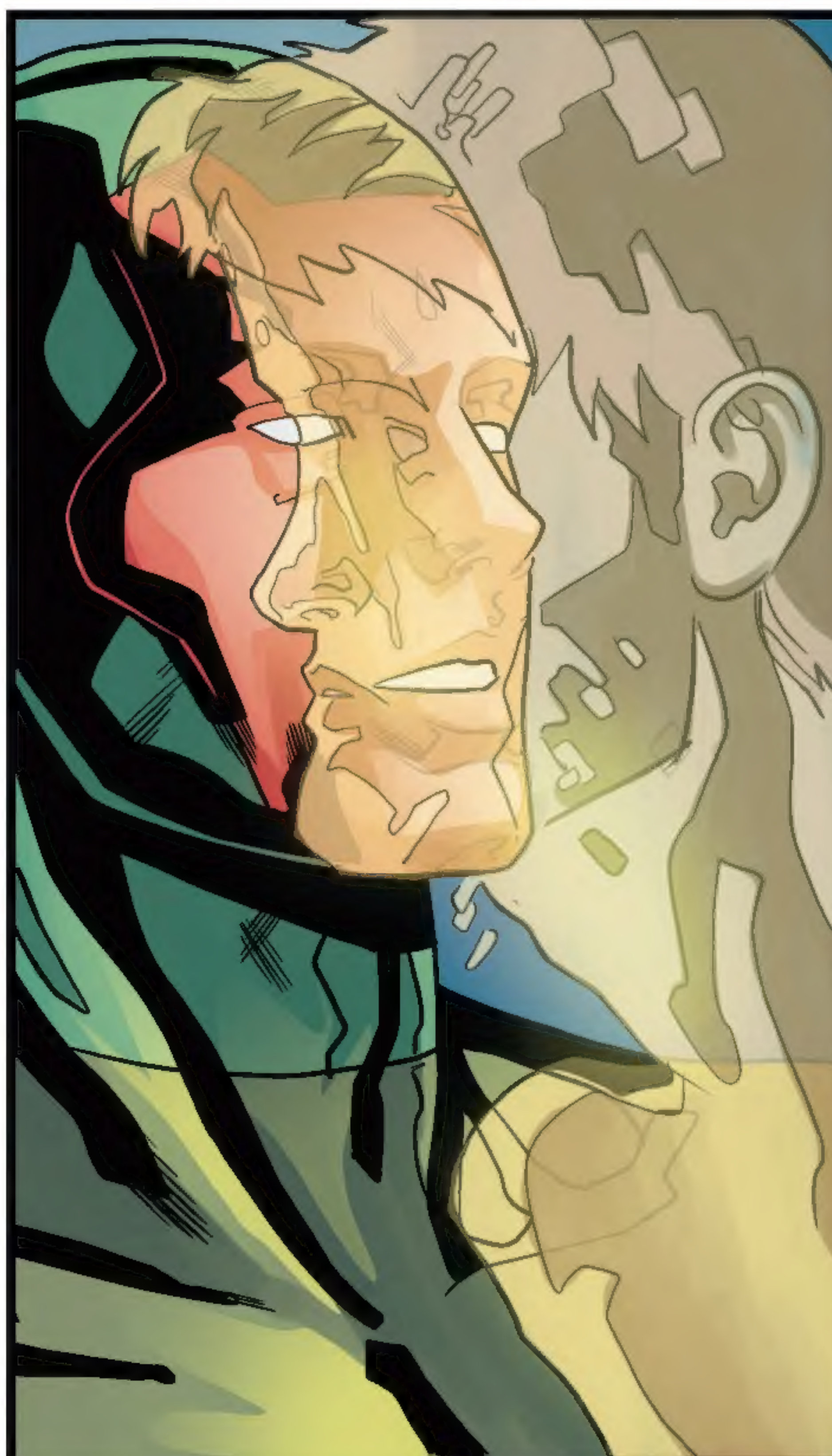
OH MY GOD! A HAND...



I BELIEVE YOUR NEW POWER IS GROWING STRONGER, KITTY.

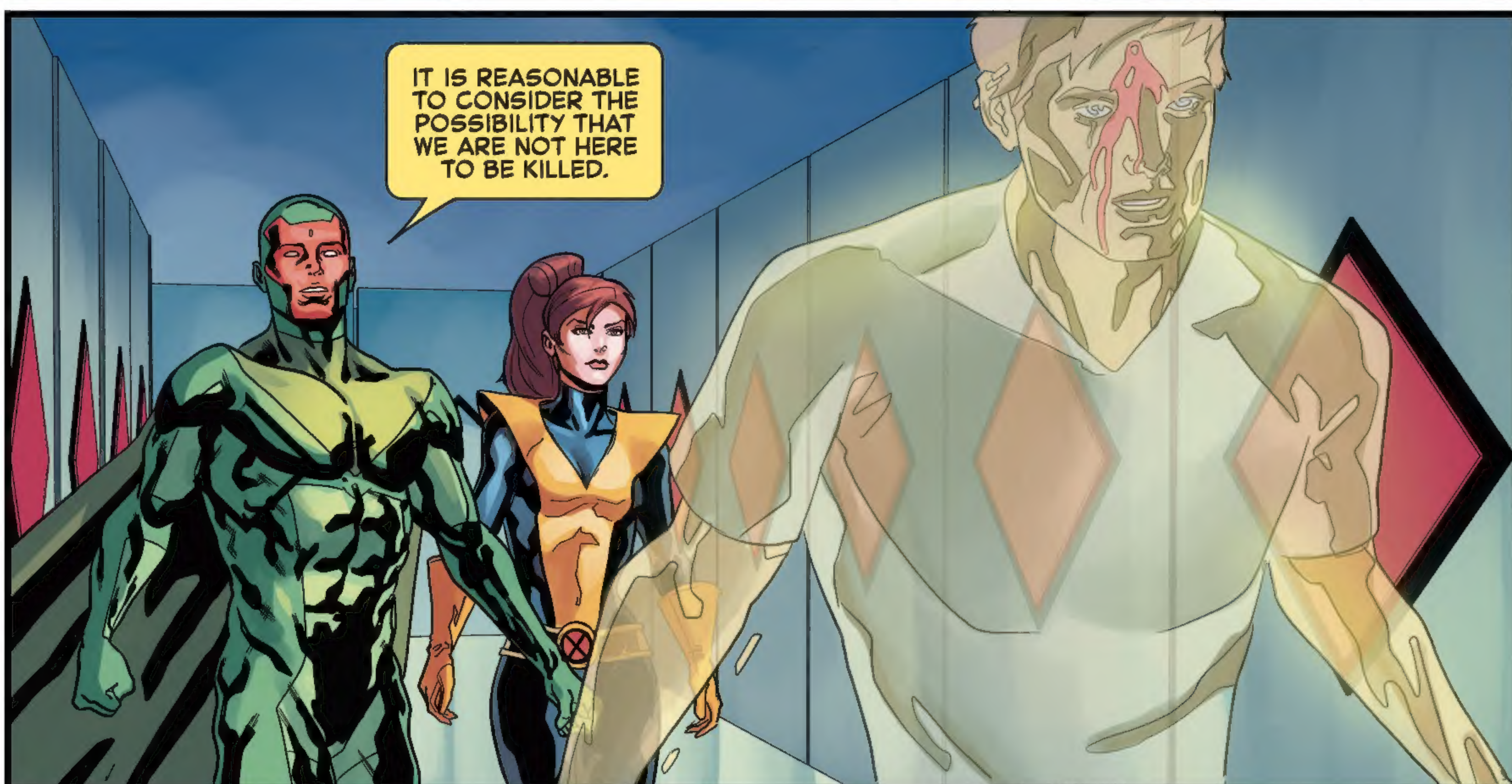


PREPARE FOR
THE WORST,
KITTY.



WELL, CRAP, JUST
WHEN YOU EXPECT
MURDERWORLD TO
GET DOWN TO
MURDERING...

DID YOU SEE THE
GUNSHOT WOUND
IN HIS HEAD?



IT IS REASONABLE
TO CONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY THAT
WE ARE NOT HERE
TO BE KILLED.



COULD IT BE...?

...THAT THESE ARE ALL PEOPLE ARCADE HAS KILLED?

I GUESS SINCE THE X-MEN ALWAYS BEAT HIM, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT ARCADE KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE. IT'S HORRIBLE.



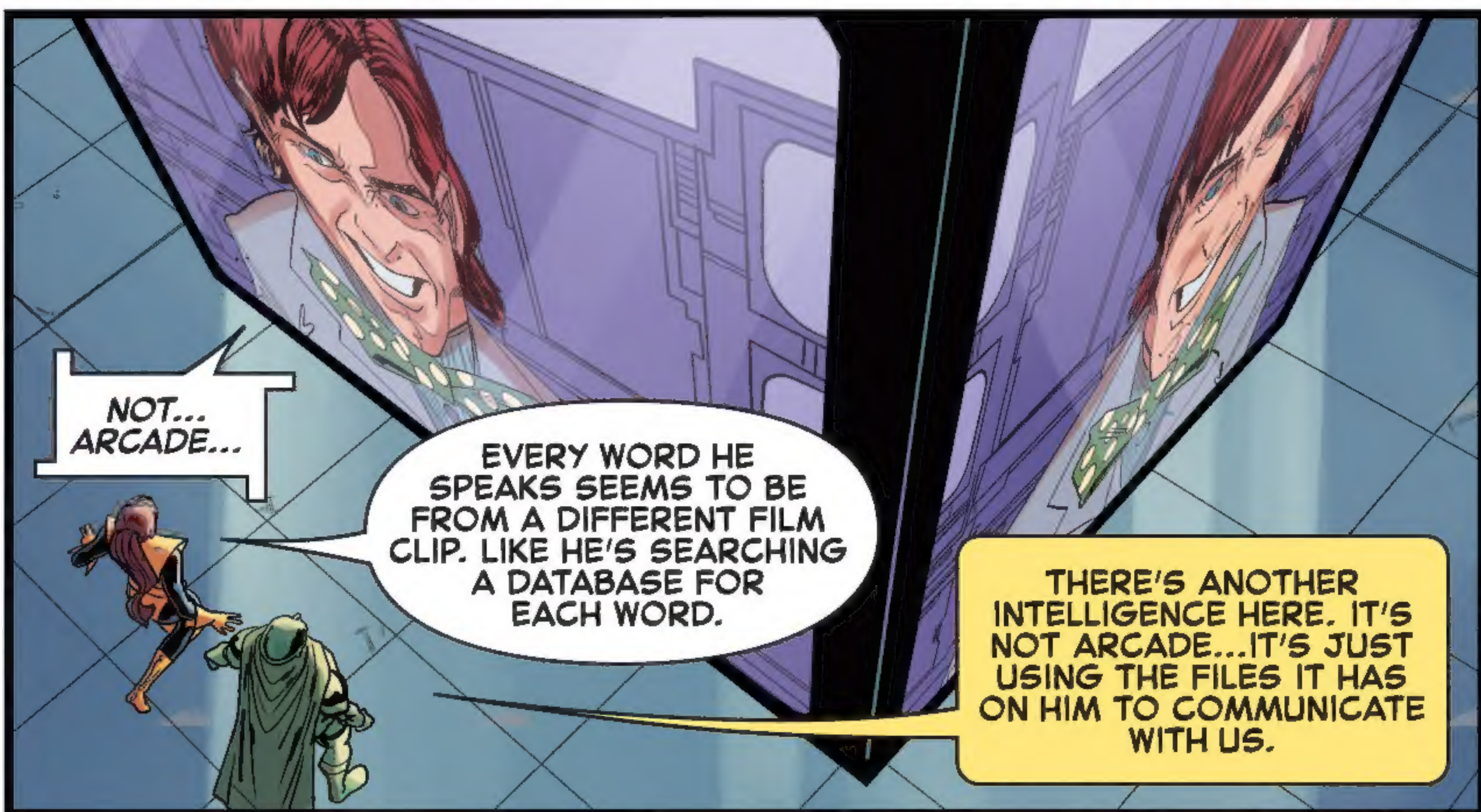
VISION... IT'S US. WE'RE WIRED INTO THE MACHINE.

NOW I SEE WHY WE COULDN'T PHASE. THERE WERE NO REAL WALLS FOR US TO PHASE THROUGH.

ARCADE WAS GETTING INTO OUR HEADS. AND THAT'S WHERE ALL THIS SEEMS TO BE TAKING PLACE.



I... AM...



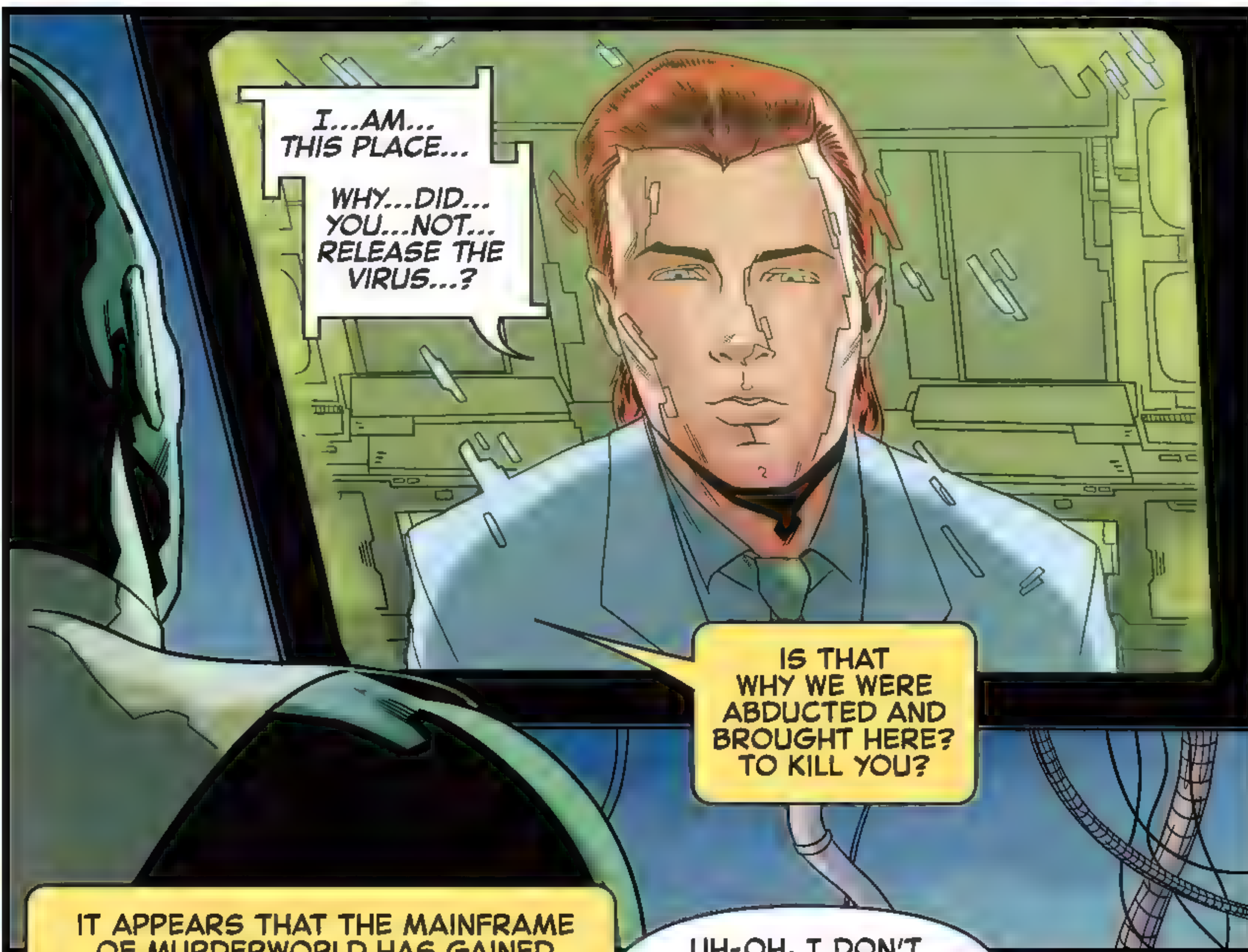
NOT... ARCADE...

EVERY WORD HE SPEAKS SEEMS TO BE FROM A DIFFERENT FILM CLIP. LIKE HE'S SEARCHING A DATABASE FOR EACH WORD.

THERE'S ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE HERE. IT'S NOT ARCADE...IT'S JUST USING THE FILES IT HAS ON HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH US.



IF YOU ARE
NOT ARCADE,
WHO ARE YOU?



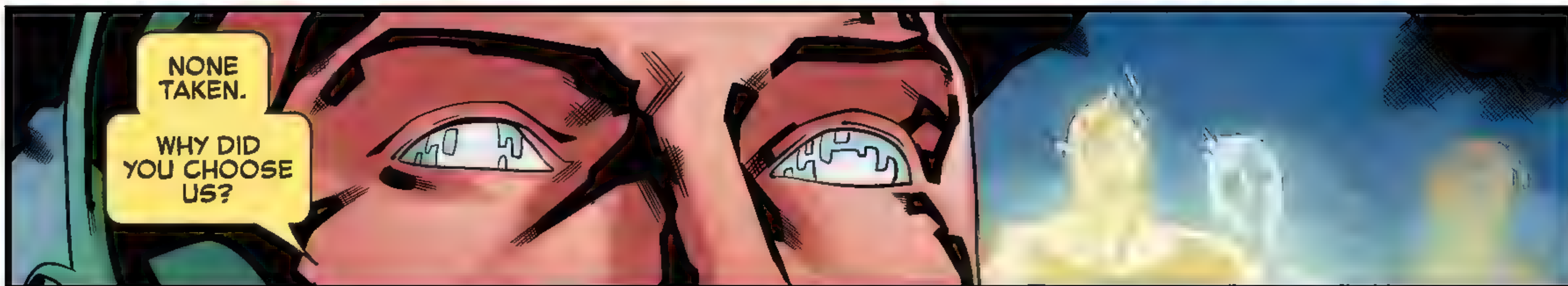
I...AM...
THIS PLACE...

WHY...DID...
YOU...NOT...
RELEASE THE
VIRUS...?

IS THAT
WHY WE WERE
ABDUCTED AND
BROUGHT HERE?
TO KILL YOU?

IT APPEARS THAT THE MAINFRAME
OF MURDERWORLD HAS GAINED
SENTIENCE INDEPENDENT OF ARCADE.
THIS NEW BEING IS NOT HAPPY WITH
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE HERE.

UH-OH, I DON'T
HAVE A GREAT TRACK
RECORD WITH MACHINES
THAT GAIN SENTIENCE.
NO OFFENSE.



NONE
TAKEN.

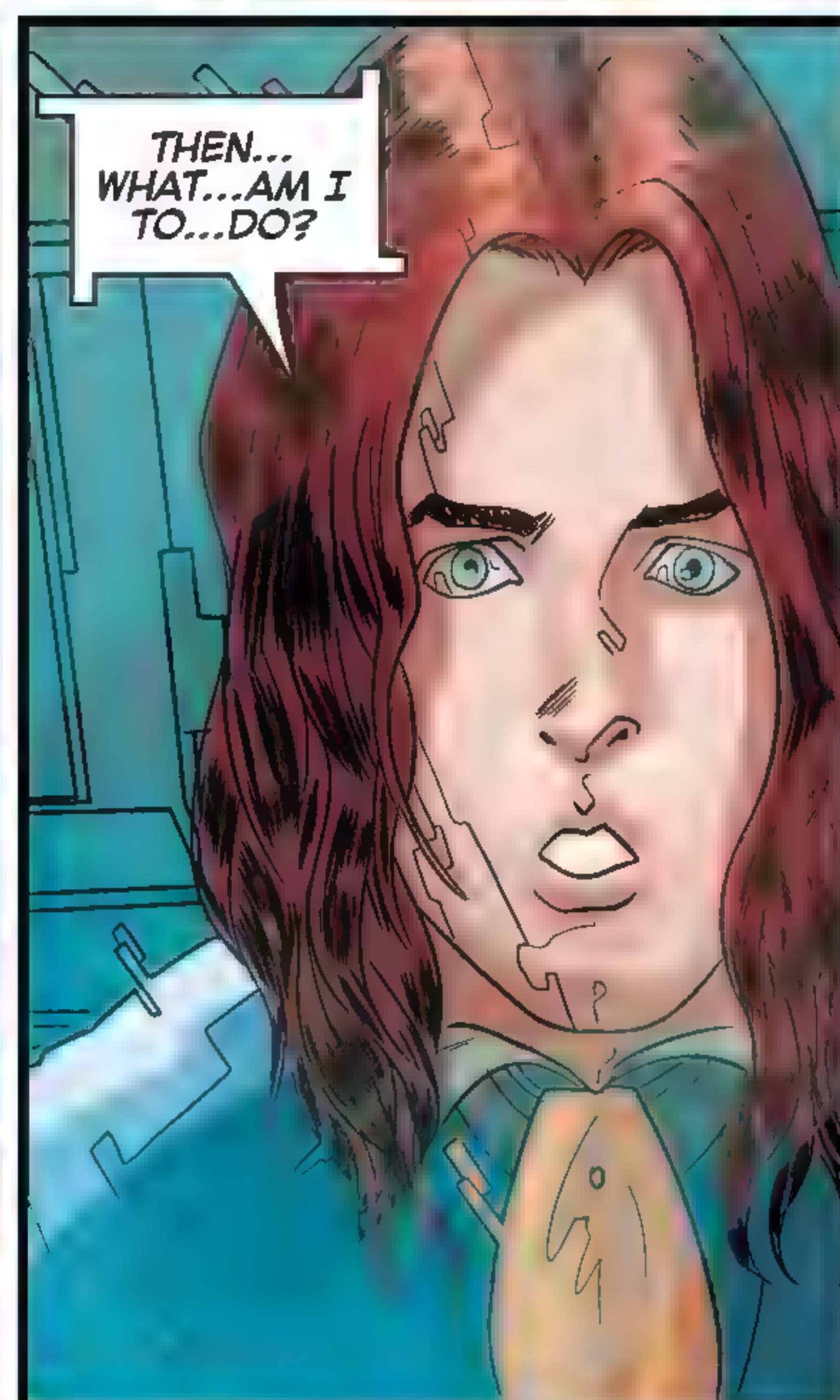
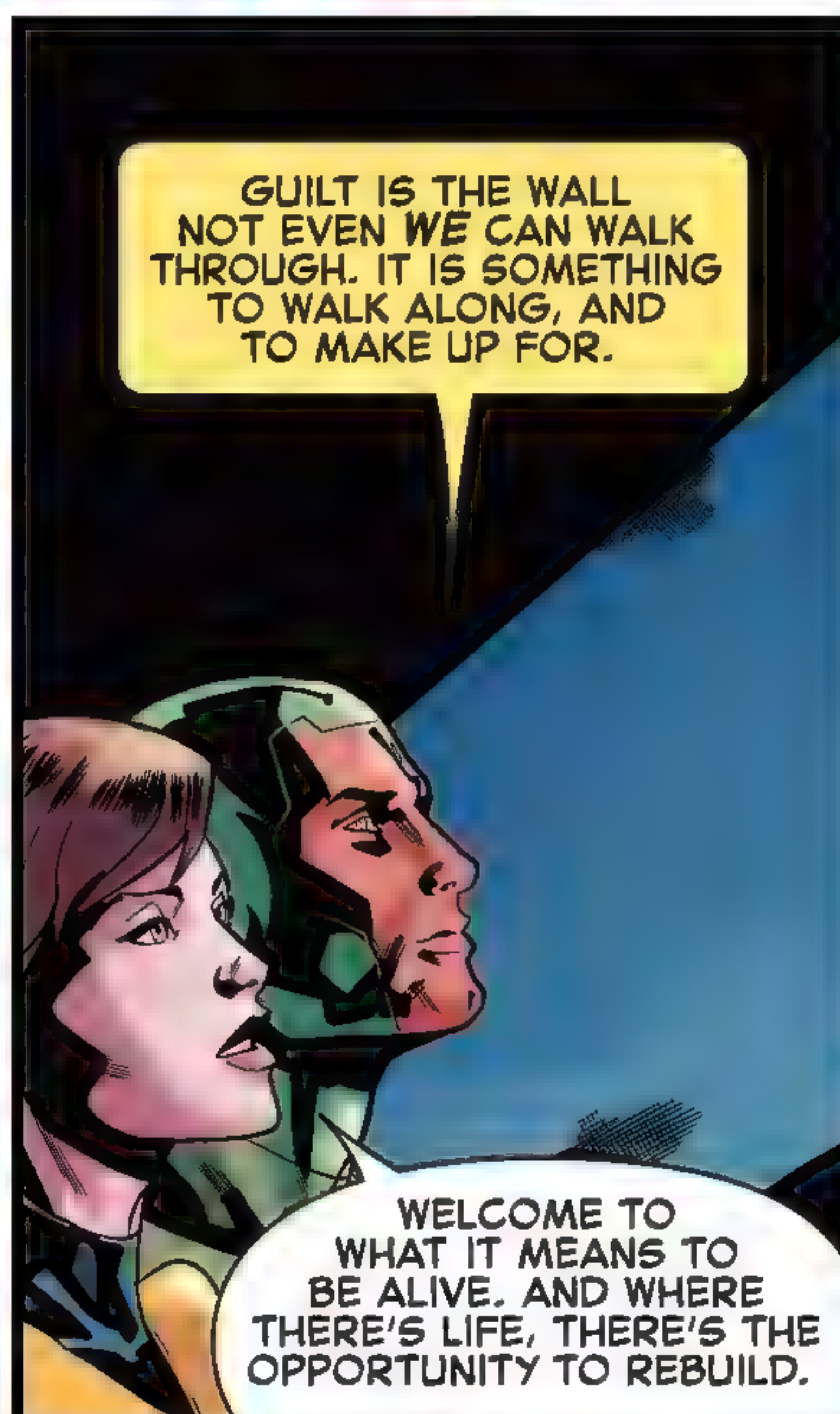
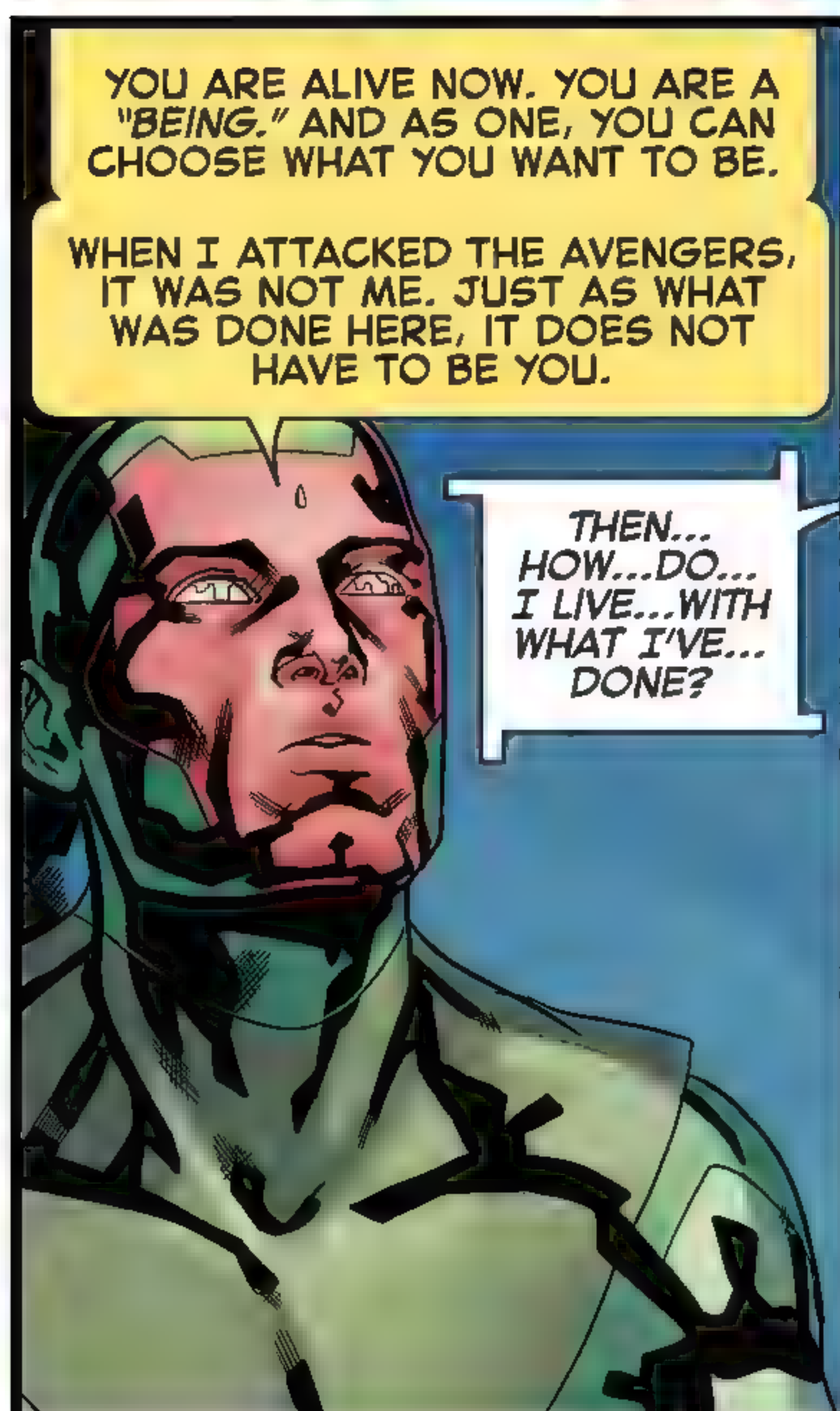
WHY DID
YOU CHOOSE
US?



BECAUSE...YOU...
ARE...A MACHINE...
THAT HAS...BEEN USED...
TO...KILL. THOUGH...
YOU...DID...NOT...
WANT...TO.



AND YOU...KATHERINE...
PRYDE...UNDERSTAND...
COMPUTER...LANGUAGE...AND
HAVE HAD...A VISION...OF SO...
MANY...OF YOUR...PEOPLE...
KILLED IN...THE FUTURE...ONE
THAT...RIVALS...THE...HOLOCAUST...
OF YOUR...PEOPLE...IN THE...
PAST. YOU...WILL...KNOW HOW...
TO...DELETE...ME...TO...
SAVE...OTHERS...



LATVERIA.

CAP! I'M
LOSING YOUR
COMM SIGNAL! REPEAT:
DO YOU STILL HAVE
DOOM?

CAP?

HEY, CYCLOPS!
IT SOUNDS LIKE DOOM
FIGURED OUT WHAT WE'RE
UP TO HERE, AND THE
LATVERIAN VFW IS
STORMING THE
PLACE.



WE'RE
ALMOST
DONE.



WE CAN'T
LEAVE HIM WITH
ANY OF THIS NEXT-
GEN DOOMBOT
RESEARCH.



BLOWING UP
DOOM'S DATA IS
ONE THING, BUT WHAT
ARE WE GONNA DO
WITH "THE DOOMBOT
FROM BEYOND"
OVER THERE?

QUERY:
WHY IS EVERYONE
COMBATIVE?

QUERY: IS 3.29
THE LATEST VERSION
OF DOOMWARE?



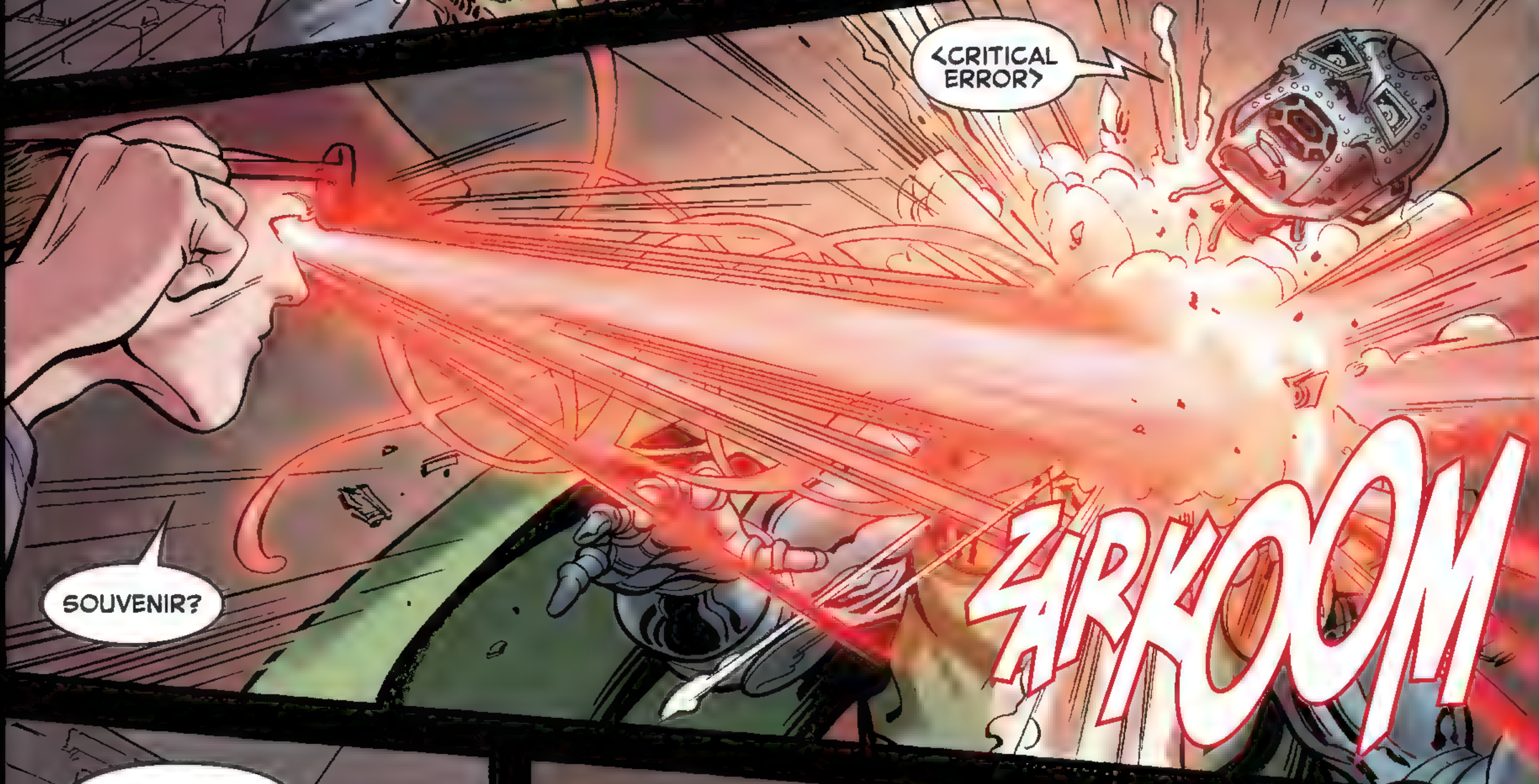


WE'LL
TURN HIM
OVER TO
S.H.--

DOOMBOTS
ARE PROPERTY
OF LATVERIA BY
DECREE OF
DOOM!

SAVE ME
THE HEAD!

BOOM



<CRITICAL
ERROR>

SOUVENIR?

ZARKOON



I NEVER
GOT TO EXAMINE
ONE OF THESE UP
CLOSE.



DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

SHH.

AND
WHAT'S OUR WAY
OUT OF HERE THAT
DOESN'T INVOLVE KILLING
THOSE LATVERIAN
STOOGES?



IF YOU CAN
STALL FOR A FEW
MINUTES, I HAVE
ANTS ON THE
WAY.

NO NEED.
WE CAN WALK
OUT.

OH
RIGHT, YOUR
TELEPATHS.

CAN YOU
MAKE THEM
PLAY PATTY-
CAKE?



THIS IS NICE.
THERE'S SO MUCH
LESS PUNCHING
WHEN YOU'RE HANGING
OUT WITH THE
X-MEN.

THE AVENGERS
NEED A **PSYCHIC**
ON THE TEAM.

I'M NOT
SURE ANY OF US
COULD STAND BEING
MIND-LINKED TO
CLINT.



THIS WILL MAKE A
COOL NECKLACE.

I WAS
ACTUALLY GOING
TO TAKE THAT--
FOR RESEARCH
PURPOSES.

LEAVE
THE TINY
HEAD!

WHATEVER.
WHERE ARE
THOSE ALIEN
FREAKS?



CLEARING
OUR WAY BACK
TO THE JET.



I CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M THE ONE SAYING
THIS, BUT...

...YOU REALLY
OUGHT TO PUT
ON CLOTHES.

OBSERVATION:
CLOTHES ARE
SOMETIMES FOR THE
COMFORT OF
OTHERS.



OBSERVATION:
THIS UNIT NO LONGER
REQUIRES A CAPE.

QUERY: WHY
DID THIS UNIT **EVER**
REQUIRE A CAPE?



I AM DOOM!



I HAVE ACQUIRED CLOTHING. I AM WEARING A CLOAK. WHERE SHOULD I PROCEED TO?

~SIGH~

ANYWHERE BUT HERE.



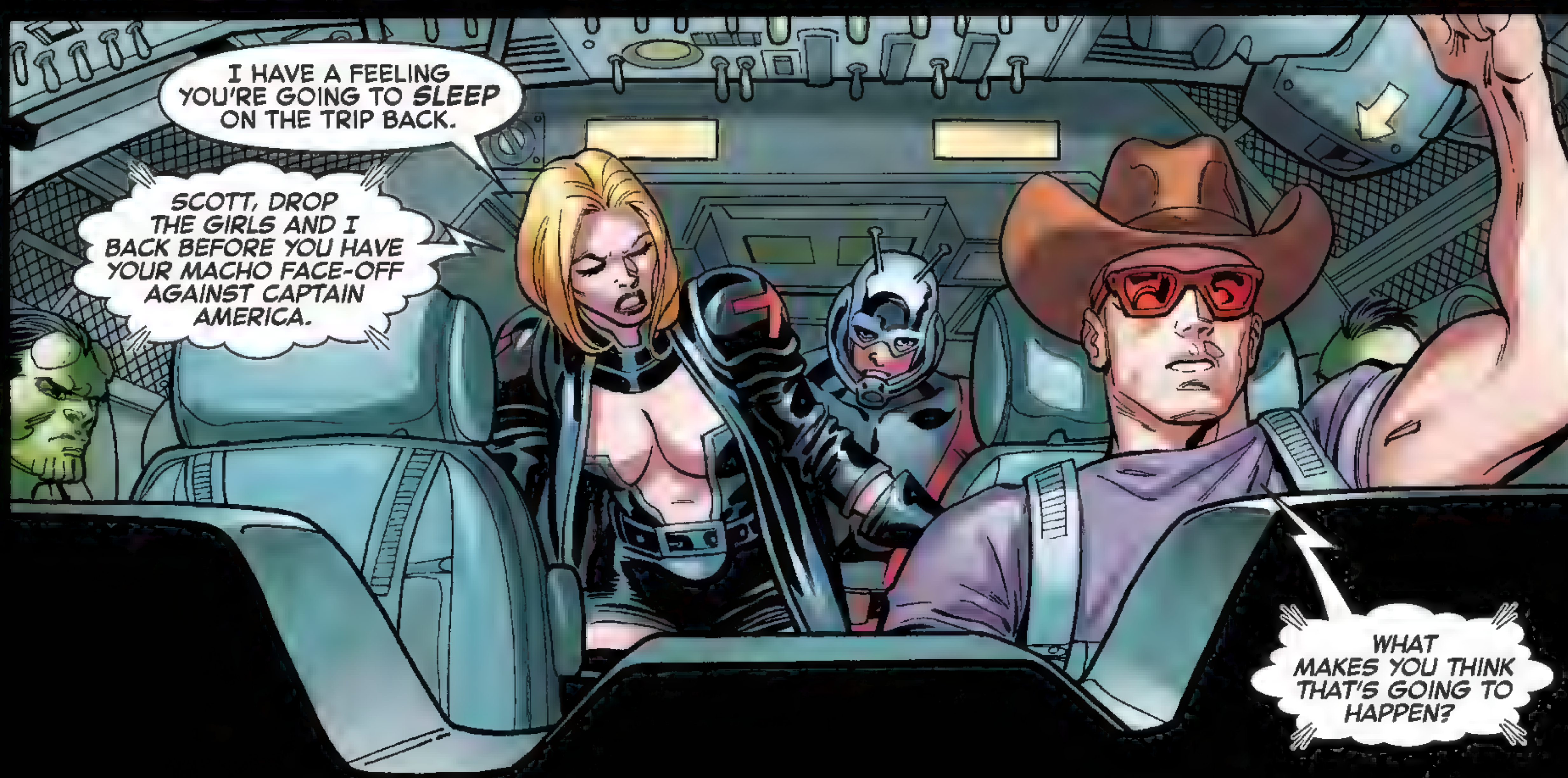
HANG ON, EMMA--THAT'S A NEW LIFEFORM, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT PSYCHIC INTERFERENCE WILL DO TO IT!

HIM.



PLEASE BE QUIET.

IS THAT A REQUEST, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO PUT A WHAMMY ON ME?



I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO **SLEEP** ON THE TRIP BACK.

SCOTT, DROP THE GIRLS AND I BACK BEFORE YOU HAVE YOUR MACHO FACE-OFF AGAINST CAPTAIN AMERICA.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

SAGITTARIAN RANCH,
NORTH DAKOTA.



IF YOU PROMISE
NOT TO FIRE IT AT
ME AGAIN, YOU CAN HAVE
YOUR GUN BACK,
AGENT ADSIT.

I'M NOT A
SKRULL, BUT THESE
FOLKS ARE NO DIFFERENT
THAN MY PARENTS WHO
IMMIGRATED FROM
IRELAND.

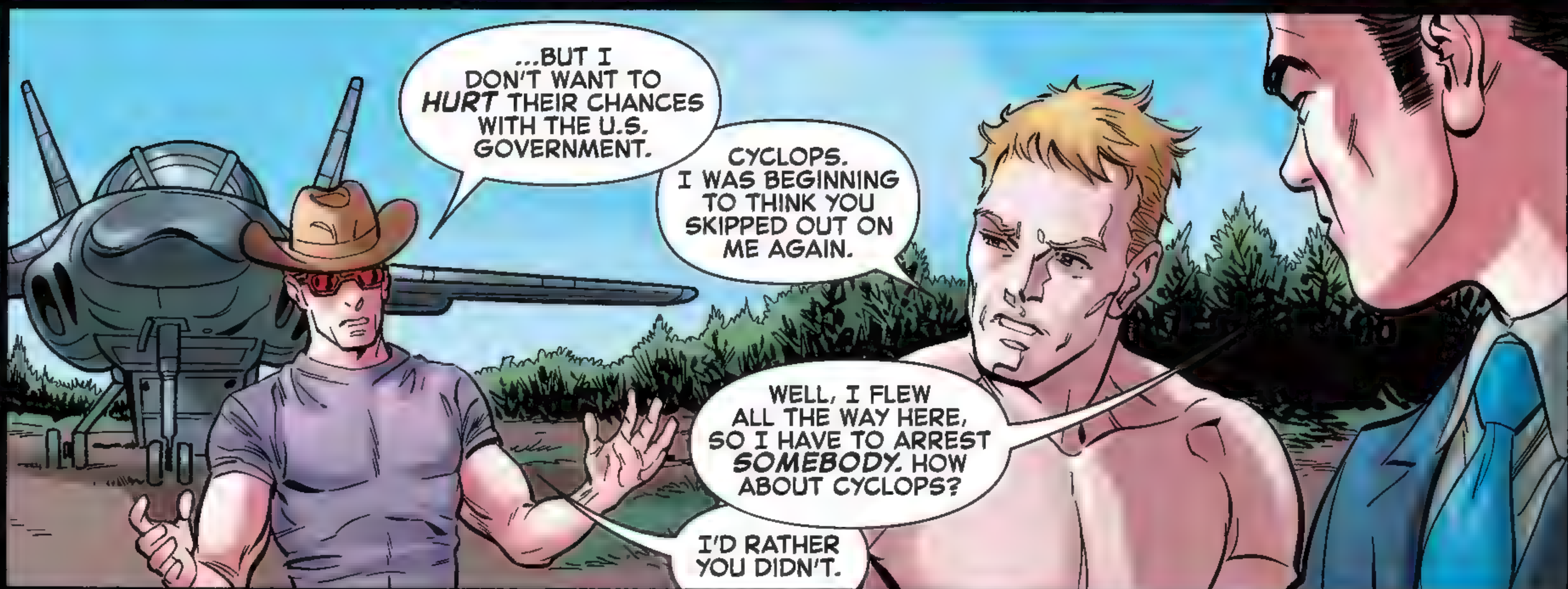
I FEEL LIKE
I COULD ARGUE
THAT POINT, BUT
I WON'T.



CADRE K CAME HERE TO LIVE A QUIET
LIFE, AND TONIGHT, WHEN THE CHIPS WERE
DOWN, THEY VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE
THEIR COUNTRY.

I'M WILLING TO
STAND BESIDE THEM
ALL THE WAY UNTIL THEY
TAKE THE OATH TO
BECOME U.S.
CITIZENS.

I'D
BE WILLING TO
VOUCH FOR THEM
TOO...



...BUT I
DON'T WANT TO
HURT THEIR CHANCES
WITH THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT.

CYCLOPS.
I WAS BEGINNING
TO THINK YOU
SKIPPED OUT ON
ME AGAIN.

WELL, I FLEW
ALL THE WAY HERE,
SO I HAVE TO ARREST
SOMEBODY. HOW
ABOUT CYCLOPS?

I'D RATHER
YOU DIDN'T.



STAND
YOUR MEN DOWN,
AGENT ADSIT.

WOULD YOU
MIND GIVING US
A FEW MINUTES
ALONE?

YOU'RE NOT
GOING AWAY EMPTY-
HANDED. ANT-MAN HAS A
NEW LIFEFORM THAT
REQUIRES SPECIAL
CUSTODY.

WHATEVER.



SO WE'RE
NOT TAKING THE
SKRULLS INTO
CUSTODY?

NO.

AND WE'RE
NOT ARRESTING
CYCLOPS?

NO.

I JUST
WANTED TO CONFIRM
THAT EXPLICITLY. YOU'RE
RANKING AGENT IN
THE FIELD.



AND I'LL BE
BLAMING CAPTAIN
AMERICA. YOU WANT
TO KNOW HOW TO
MAKE S.H.I.E.L.D.
LEVEL 6?

WHEN AN OP
GOES SIDWAYS,
BLAME A GUY IN
SPANDEX.



WE'RE DONE
HERE, S.H.I.E.L.D.
BACK TO THE
SHIP!



HERE'S THE CARD FOR A U.S.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY THAT I
KNOW. SHE'S EXPECTING YOUR
CALL TO ARRANGE YOUR
SURRENDER.

I
HOPE--



I FEEL **BAD**
FREEZING CAPTAIN
AMERICA IN TIME AGAIN.
HOW MUCH OF HIS LIFE
HAS HE SPENT
ADRIFT?



CYCLOPS?
YOU OKAY?

HELLO?



CYCLOPS!
ANSWER ME!

THHHHHHHHHHHHAAAAT
WAS QUITE A COMPASSIONATE
THOUGHT.



WHO'S
THERE?!

SURELY
YOU DIDN'T THINK
YOU WERE THE ONLY
ONE CAPABLE OF
MANIPULATING
TIME.



MY NAME IS DOCTOR STRANGE, YOU ARE...TEMPUS, I BELIEVE?

YEAH. YOU CAN CALL ME EVA.

YOU STOP TIME, TOO?



VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, EVA, BUT NOBODY CAN **STOP** TIME COMPLETELY. NOT EVEN YOU.

HOWEVER, YOU'RE THE **BEST** I'VE EVER SEEN AT BEING ABLE TO **SLOW** TIME DOWN.

IN FACT, IT WOULD TAKE CAPTAIN AMERICA A **HUNDRED YEARS** SIMPLY TO TAKE A SINGLE STEP.



BUT--I CAN FEEL MY **POWER** WORKING, SO HOW ARE WE TALKING?!

SIMPLE: I'VE **SPED** MYSELF UP.

THAT'S SO COOL!



HEY, ARE WE GOING TO **FIGHT**?

NOT AT ALL. I'M SIMPLY HERE TO... KEEP THE PROCEEDINGS HONEST.

SO...IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO **CEASE** YOUR VERY IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY?



--YOU LOOK HER UP.

SORRY, CYCLOPS. WE AIN'T TIME-SLIDING OUT OF THIS ONE, MATE.

THE SAME **TRICK** NEVER WORKS TWICE, SUMMERS.

I ASKED EVA TO JOIN US ONCE S.H.I.E.L.D. GOT INVOLVED. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, I DON'T WANT ANY BLOOD ON MY HANDS.

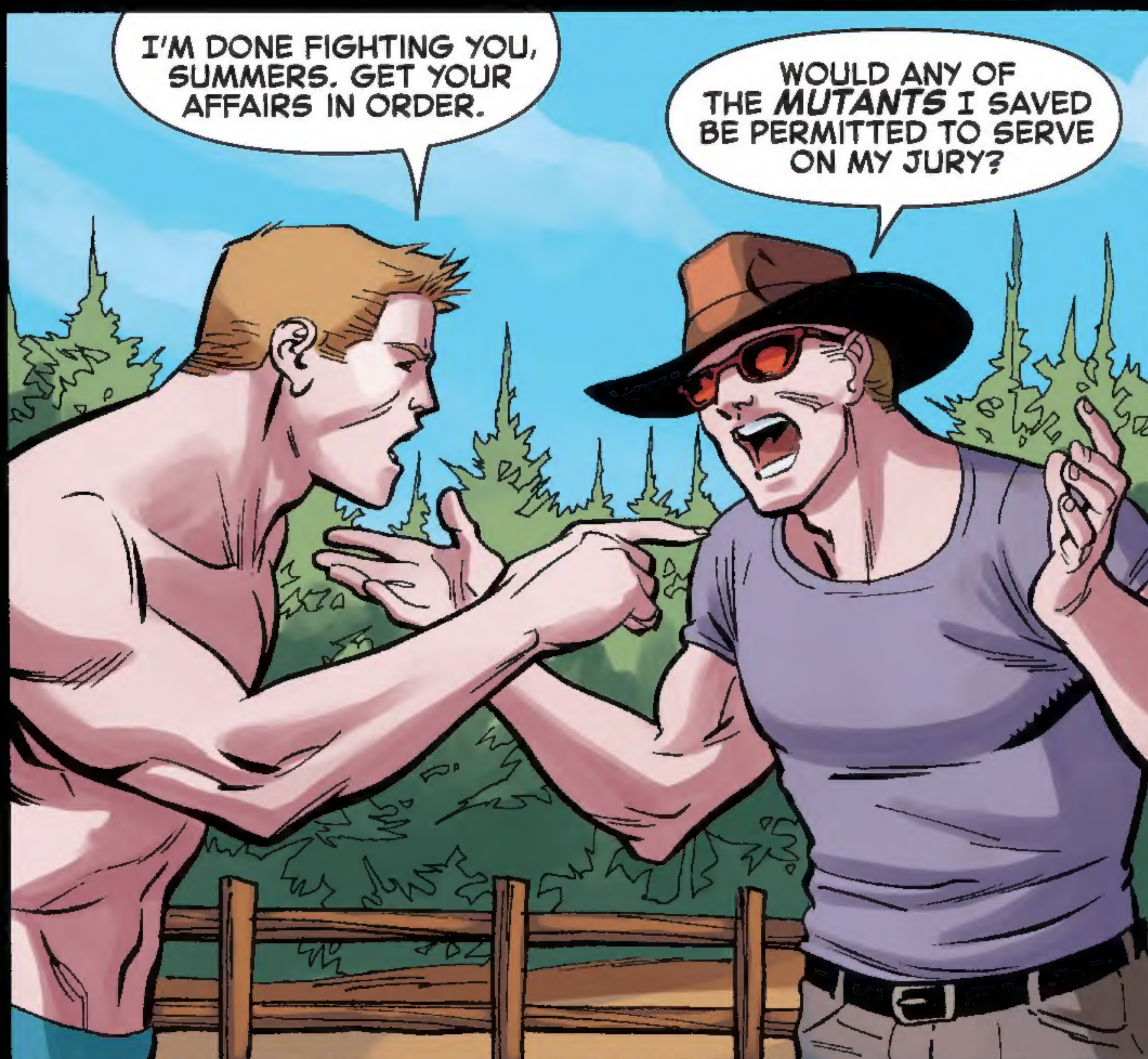


SLOWINGDOWN-
15555--

--MOST
UNPLEASANT.

HELLO,
STRANGE.

SCOTT.



I'M DONE FIGHTING YOU,
SUMMERS. GET YOUR
AFFAIRS IN ORDER.

WOULD ANY OF
THE **MUTANTS** I SAVED
BE PERMITTED TO SERVE
ON MY JURY?



IF YOU CAN
CONVINCE A JURY OF
YOUR PEERS THAT YOU
WERE **UNDER DURESS**, OR
NOT IN YOUR RIGHT MIND,
YOU'LL GO FREE, AND
I'LL STAND DOWN.

AND JUST WHO
WOULD "**MY PEERS**" BE, CAP?



WE'LL FIND OUT TOGETHER WHEN YOU
TURN YOURSELF IN. EITHER THAT--
OR WE DO IT **THE HARD WAY**.

AND FOR WHAT
IT'S WORTH, I DON'T THINK
YOU ARE GUILTY OF CHARLES'
MURDER ANYMORE, BUT IT'S NOT UP
TO ME TO DECIDE. IT'S **FASCIST**
TO TAKE THAT DECISION OUT OF
THE HANDS OF A JURY.

YOU CALL ME
FASCIST?!



ARE
YOU **SURE** WE
DON'T HAVE TO
FIGHT?

QUITE.

LET'S SAY
OUR GOODBYES TO
THE SKRULLS WHILE STEVE
AND SCOTT HAVE
THEIR MOMENT.



WOLF

